



# The Holy Ghost

Notes by LARRY CLARK and MARY WOLFE

*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come,  
they were all with one accord in one place.  
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven  
as of a rushing mighty wind,  
and it filled all the house where they were sitting.  
And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire,  
and it sat upon each of them.  
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,  
and began to speak with other tongues,  
as the Spirit gave them utterance.”  
Acts 2:1-4*

*“And when the day of Pentecostal was fully come...”*

This was the birthday of the church, the ushering in of a new era, the Kingdom of God.

- On the first Day of Pentecost, God gave his law on Mount Sinai, accompanied by thundering and lightning.
- On the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection, God gave the Holy Spirit, with a rushing mighty wind and tongues of fire upon each disciple.
  - On that day was the fulfillment of the promise of God:  
*“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them” (Ezekiel 36:27).*
  - On that day was the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus:  
*“... ye shall receive power” (Acts 1:8).*

The human race needed power to obey the law, for as Paul tells us there were things *“... the law could not do, in that it was weak in the flesh...”* (Romans 8:3).

## **THIS EVENT WAS PROMISED THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- Isaiah:  
*“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring” (Isaiah 44:3).*  
*“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people (Isaiah 28:11).*
- Joel:  
*“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh” (Joel 2:28).*

## THEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- John the Baptist reiterated and told us it was soon to happen
  - *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, .... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire”* (Matthew 3:11).
- Jesus Himself only a few days before it happened:
  - *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”* (Luke 24:49).
  - *“....but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence”* (Acts 1:5).

Thousands had heard the promise over the years. It is believed that 500 heard the promise to “tarry in Jerusalem” noted above. Yet only about 120 actually received the promise; 380 did not. The ones that truly believed the promise did what He said to do. The scripture teaches us *“The just shall live by faith”* (Habakkuk 2:4, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38). While 120 lived by their faith and returned to Jerusalem, 380 of them, although possibly believing it could be, did not ‘live by faith’ enough to obey. (When we truly believe, we act accordingly).

**OBEDIENCE IS THE EVIDENCE OF BELIEF:** We must do things God’s way. To enter His kingdom and obtain all its beauties and benefits, we must come according to the scripture.

*“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”* (John 14:21).

- God honors obedience. *“To obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22).

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*“FOR precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little”* (Isaiah 28:10).

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We find much of Peter’s sermon in Acts 2 to be quotations out of the Old Testament with which he proves what he says - that this event was the accomplishment of the prophecies of the Old Testament which related to the kingdom of the Messiah, and therefore evidence that this kingdom is come.

## **BORN OF THE SPIRIT**

### **John 3:**

- *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. v. 5*
  - *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. v.8*
  - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. v.16*
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## **THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**

Matthew 16:18-19

*18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

The phrase “keys of the kingdom” refers to the power to open the kingdom of God to the world through preaching. By giving Peter the keys, Jesus acknowledged that Peter would possess the true salvation message. By this message people could enter into the kingdom of God.

- At Pentecost he preached the first sermon of the New Testament church and opened the door to the Jews (Acts 2:14-40).
  - Later he was instrumental in helping the Samaritans (people of both Jewish and Gentile ancestry) to receive the Holy Ghost for the first time (Acts 8:14-17).
  - Finally, he was the first to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10:34-48).
  - The Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles represented all races and nationalities of people.
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## **TONGUES - THE UNIFORM SIGN THAT ONE HAS RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST**

### **Prophecy**

*“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people”  
(Isaiah 38:11).*

### Day of Pentecost

*“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).*

### Converts in Samaria:

There was a visible manifestation that Simon wanted to purchase. (See Acts 8:12-24 for details of this story).

### Cornelius' household

*“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...” (Acts 10:44-46).*

*“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?” (Acts 11:15-16).*

### Men of Ephesus:

*“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied” (Acts 19:6).*

### Paul:

*“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all” (I Corinthians 14:18).*

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*“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).*

It was analogous to Jesus' words to Nicodemus in John 3. The question, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* has the same answer as the question, *“How can I enter the kingdom of God?”* The answer of Jesus Himself is, *“You must be born of the water and spirit.”* Peter was reiterating this when he said, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

*For the promise is unto you, and to your children,  
and to all that are afar off,  
even as many as the Lord our God shall call.  
(Acts 2:39)*